

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2127
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2002
DEFICIENCY OF MICRONUTRIENTS
RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the deficiency of micronutrients like Nitrogen, Iron, Phosphorus, Zinc, Potassium, Sulphur, Manganese and Boron which are being reported in soils getting transferred to humans/animals, through food/feed chain;
- (b) if so, its consequences on humans as well as on animals; and
- (c) the action being taken by the Government for dealing with these dangers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (c): There are instances of soil nutrient deficiencies in certain parts of the country. The deficiencies arise due to removal of nutrients at higher rates than their replenishment into the soil.

The regular intake of nutrient deficient foods/feeds by human/animals beings may create metabolic disorders in them effecting their overall health.

To ensure that there is no ill effect of any kind due to imbalanced use of plant nutrients, the Government propagates the use of integrated nutrients combining chemical fertilizers, organic manures and biofertilizers on the basis of soil tests as per the requirement of crops.

The Government has taken the following important steps to encourage the balanced and integrated use of plant nutrients for sustaining soil fertility:-

- (i) The soil-testing programme is periodically strengthened to make the fertilizer use recommendations according to the nutrient status of the soils.
- (ii) Financial support is given to decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers so as to increase their consumption and thereby bring balance in NPK consumption.
- (iii) Use of integrated nutrients through chemical fertilizers including micronutrients, organic sources like biofertilizers, compost/vermicompost is being encouraged so as to maintain soil fertility and make cheaper source of plant nutrients available to the crops.